

# Marriages & Marriage Dissolutions

## Marriages

In 2002, 19,783 marriages occurred in Kansas, a decrease of 3.3 percent from the 2001 total of 20,457 marriages. ([Table 57](#))

The greatest number of marriages (3,904) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Geary county had the highest marriage rate of 20.0 marriages per 1,000 population. Wallace county had the fewest marriages (7) while Smith and Wallace had the lowest marriage rate (4.1). ([Table 57](#), [Figure 36](#))

The Kansas marriage rate in 2002 was 7.3 marriages per 1,000 population, which was 16.1 percent lower than the 1992 rate of 8.7. The 2002 rate was 6.4 percent lower than the estimated U.S. rate of 7.8 marriages per 1,000 population. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 38](#))

More wedding ceremonies were performed in June (13.9 percent) than any other month in 2002, with August and May being the second and third most popular months. ([Figure 40](#))

First-time marriages for both partners made up more than half of the marriages in Kansas for the fourth consecutive year. In 2002, 52.7 percent of all marriages involved first-time partners. ([Table 59](#), [Figure 2](#))

Kansas couples are delaying marriage. In 1992, 11.9 percent of the brides and 4.5 percent of the grooms were under 20 years of age. However, in 2002, 10.0 percent of the brides and 3.7 percent of the grooms were under 20. ([Table 60](#))

The average age of all brides in 2002 was 29.7 years and that of grooms was 31.9 years. Women marrying for the first time averaged 24.6 years while first time grooms averaged 26.7 years. Of those persons who remarried during 2002, women were, on the average, 39.3 years old and men were 42.1 years of age. ([Figure 41](#))

## Marriage and Marriage Dissolutions (Cont.)

### Marriage Dissolutions

In 2002, 9,645 marriage dissolutions (9,310 divorces and 335 annulments) occurred in Kansas, a decrease of 2.4 percent from the 2001 total of 9,885. ([Table 58](#) and [Table 62](#))

The greatest number of marriage dissolutions (2,762) occurred in Sedgwick county, but Coffey county had the highest marriage dissolution rate (11.0) per 1,000 population. Greeley county had no marriage dissolutions in 2002. Gove county had 1 and also had the lowest dissolution rate of 0.3 per 1,000 population. ([Table 58](#), [Figure 37](#))

The Kansas marriage dissolution rate in 2002 was 3.6 marriage dissolutions per 1,000 population, which was 26.5 percent lower than the 1992 rate of 4.9. The 2002 rate is the lowest since 1970. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 39](#))

Kansas has generally reported a higher marriage dissolution rate than the U.S. for most years since 1951. However, Kansas' rate in 1995 (4.3) was lower than the U.S. rate (4.4) for the first time since 1951. The Kansas rate in 2002 (3.6) was 10.0 percent lower than the U.S. rate (4.0). ([Figure 39](#))

The ratios of marriages to divorces for Kansas and the U.S. were both roughly 2 to 1, with both Kansas and the U.S. at 2.0:1. ([Table 57](#) and [Table 58](#))

The most common age-group of wives involved in marriage dissolutions in 2002 was 25-29, while for husbands it was the 30-34 age-group. For couples of the same age-group, the most common age-group was 25-29. ([Table 61](#))

The average age at marriage dissolution in 2002 was 36.1 years for wives and 38.5 years for husbands, as compared to 33.8 years for wives and 36.1 years for husbands in 1992. ([Figure 42](#))

In 2002, 41.8 percent of marriages ending in divorce or annulment lasted four years or less. ([Table 62](#))

There were 8,917 minor children affected as a result of marriage dissolutions in 2002. At least one minor child was reported in over half (51.6 percent) of the marriage dissolutions. ([Table 63](#), [Figure 43](#))